

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Montana Historical Society, Boo MacGivra Auditorium
Friday, April 11, 2008

In attendance were Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members Sharon Lincoln, Bill Holt, Kent Kleinkopf, Katherine Lee, Jack Lepley, Jim Murry, Lee Rostad, Crystal Wong Shors, Shirley Groff, Steve Lozar, Thomas Nygard, George Horse Capture and Jim Utterback. Also in attendance were MHS Director Richard Sims, MHS Administrative Assistant Renee Podell, MHS State Historic Preservation Officer Mark Baumler, MHS Administrator Denise King, MHS Publications Program Manager Molly Holz, MHS Research Center Program Manager Molly Kruckenberg, MHS Museum Program Manager Bill Mercer, MHS Outreach and Interpretation Program Manager Kirby Lambert, Deputy Director of the Department of Administration Sheryl Olson, Montana History Foundation Amy Sullivan, Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission Executive Director, Paul Reichert and the Original Governor's Mansion Board President Rich Palmer and Past President Norma Jean Kelly, MHS Special Projects Manager Susan Near, MHS Research Center Archivist Jodie Foley and MHS Chief of Security John Ashmore.

CALL TO ORDER

President Sharon Lincoln called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. George Horse Capture gave the blessing of the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Museum Manager Bill Mercer, Publications Graphic Designer Diane Hall, Electronic Records Project Archivist Emiley Jensen, and Photograph Archives Technician Arian Randall were introduced and each presented a short synopsis about themselves.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Jim Murry moved to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2008 meeting, Bill Holt seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

FACILITY EXPANSION UPDATE

Sharon Lincoln asked Sheryl Olson if there was any news on a new facility site. Sheryl stated there wasn't any news. She explained the evaluation of options continues noting that finding room on the capitol complex is difficult. News should come forward in time for the next Board meeting. Sharon thanked everyone for their time and consideration of this important issue.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Denise King presented financial schedules for FY 2008 through quarter ending March 31, 2008 highlighting the different types of activities found in each fund. She reported the budget is presently in good standing. Denise defined risk management and outlined ways of reducing premiums. A safe driving class was recently offered that reduced premiums by 5% for each employee taking the class. Denise submitted a handout outlining the 2011 biennium budget requests.

ORIGINAL GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Bill Mercer introduced the new president of the Board Rich Palmer and past president Norma Jean Kelly. Rich gave an update on what will be happening this summer at the original mansion. He spoke on the construction that will begin shortly for the remodel of the mansion basement. A new ADA accessible bathroom will be built. Carriage house changes are planned also. The carriages will be removed and put into the Shriver Center storage in hopes of better utilization of the carriage house for summer and winter functions. He noted that the carriage house is conducive to events needing a covered building. Norma Jean spoke on the tremendous growth of the secret garden tour fundraiser and noted that \$15,000 has been raised by this project for the new museum.

MONTANA HISTORY FOUNDATION REPORT

Amy Sullivan stated she attended the text book party and it was great. There has been an overwhelming response in favor of the text book. She highlighted activities at the Foundation emphasizing the new web page for the foundation should be completed shortly, a significant donation of \$600,000.00 was raised and a movie production is in the works to preserve Virginia City. Jim Utterback asked Amy if a study on the new building facility had been commissioned. Amy said an anonymous donor had a cost analysis done and the Governor was reviewing it.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Sharon Lincoln presented handouts explaining the Montana County History Initiative. She stated it is a grand plan to get groups involved in tourism. The CHI Steering Committee will be instrumental in planning and logistics of regional meetings. The members of the Steering Committee from each region will act as a planning committee for their own regional meeting and for working together with MHS staff to develop the content and structure of the sessions. MHS will host two meetings to create the Montana County History Steering Committee and on May 12 – 13, 2008 the first meeting will take place in Helena, Montana. MHS will provide up to \$1,000 to each host institution to cover facilities and food costs. Four MHS staff members will travel to each regional conference, serving as facilitators and presenters. The bulk of the budget, \$7,000 per region, will go toward the purchase of workshop training materials, professional development publications to use at the regional meetings, and to purchase any equipment needed

for conducting oral history projects following the regional meetings. Jim Murry asked if there were any downsides to this plan? Richard Sims commented it was a positive move recognizing the need for tourism.

Sharon called for approval of the motion. Jim Murry moved to endorse the charter. Kent Kleinkopf seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

MHS FRIENDS REPORT

Karen Borowiak was not present due to jury duty. Kirby Lambert encouraged everyone to send in a recipe for the cookbook which is being compiled by the Friends. He also reminded all present that April 15th was the volunteer luncheon at the Montana Club. The speaker for the luncheon will be Betty Babcock.

MONTANA HERITAGE COMMISSION

Paul Reichert announced that an open house/public meeting was held in February at the community center in Virginia City attended by about 20 people. This laid the groundwork to orient the planning team and let interested residents know that this will start the historic site plan. The key to this plan is to define in greater detail the infrastructure needs MHC and the local community needs to implement a broad vision for education, training and visitor services. Paul stated work on Legislative proposals has started and he will be seeking full funding from the Legislature this next session. He presented handouts for the Board's review of the long range building program for Reeder's Alley located in Helena, Virginia and Nevada Cities and Gilbert Brewery located in Virginia City. Discussion took place on the Save the Brewery Project. This is the oldest intact brewery operation in Montana and it is in critical need of stabilization to protect people and the structure. Sharon Lincoln asked for two Board members to work with the commission on this project. Steve Lozar and Jim Utterback offered to assist with the project. Paul reported that Patty Dean of Helena was appointed as a new MHC board member. He said MHS staff and MHC are working together on a 2008 history camp and work continues on a DVD marketing/educational filming project.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Richard asked Susan Near to discuss the MHS Code of Ethics draft document. Susan said the document sets out Board behavior guidelines and she encouraged input from the Board on the draft. She presented a booklet entitled "Principles for Good Governance and Ethical Practice" a guide for charities and foundations working to improve their operations. She pointed out that Board members and staff who possibly have personal collections must remember that the Society comes first so that there isn't a conflict of interest. Crystal Wong Shors proposed that processes be added to the draft wherein a Board could review for conflicts. Tom Nygard suggested that the Executive Committee review the changes made to the document and added that "conflict of interest" should be precisely laid out within the document. George Horse Capture asked that the document be presented as specifically for each instance as possible. Richard stated that the Code

of Ethics is reviewed every 10 years and needs to be approved by the next meeting. Katherine Lee asked if staff members could be included in the discussions regarding the draft changes. Richard stated that they could be. Tom Nygard asked if Kirby Lambert, Crystal Shors, Bill Mercer, and Susan Near would agree to meet and go over the draft. Steve Lozar suggested that other examples be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

Richard reported on his Washington, D.C. SHPO Conference. While attending the conference he visited with Ford Bell, Senator Baucus and Senator Tester and members of Rep. Rehberg's staff. Richard and Senator Tester visited about the new building and Senator Tester showed an interest in historic preservation and in the development of alternative sites for the new proposed MHS building.

MHS SECURITY REPORT

John Ashmore said staff has gone through CPR and AED training. First aid kits have been installed throughout the building. He reported access controls have been completed allowing service people to come into the shipping/receiving doors. This is done remotely from the front desk. Simplex, the old fire system, installed in the 80's has some problems which staff and Simplex are now repairing. John reported that the guard staff is helping with the research needed for the Governor's 20 by 10 initiative. This initiative is an attempt to reduce energy consumption through state agencies by 20% by the year 2010. A potential savings for doing this will be around 3 million dollars. Energy saving steps brought forward by the Governor's office set office temperatures between 68 and 71 degrees for the winter months and during the evenings and weekends the temperatures are to be set at 60 degrees. Employees have been asked to remove personal space heaters and replace them with foot mats that draw about 100 watts. Electronic equipment should be turned off at the end of the day. A DEQ handout was distributed. The MHS building was evaluated by six auditors for areas that could be changed for additional energy savings. Last years annual electrical energy costs were \$58,298.00. The annual gas bill was \$51,614.00. Auditors figured MHS could save 15% if recommended retrofits were completed. MHS is a leased state building and all building changes must go through the Department of Administration. Richard pointed out that although MHS is looking to the future for a new building, we will be living in this building for quite a while and this building has issues.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)

Richard stated it is the second year of museums in schools Indian Education for All grant. He presented the report (also found on the website). MHS is currently soliciting bids from small museums around Montana to apply for \$7500 dollars to improve their Indian collections and their Indian educational presentations. They are required to partner with their local school district. Our bias is to the very small museums. Museum of the Rockies helped get it started. They were awarded the grant last year.

Kirby Lambert, Bill Mercer, Jennifer Bottomly-O'Looney and Richard drove to a ranch on the square butte where the David Humphrey Miller collection is being housed. They spent about five hours viewing the collection and decided the collection would be of interest to a South Dakota museum and the native people of that state rather than Montana. The price of the collection is one million dollars.

Performance evaluation appraisals will be incorporated system wide by June 30th. Copies of the package to be used were circulated for Board members who will be evaluating Richard.

Richard reported he is starting to have a lot of fun with his Dutch oven work around Montana and has named it Big Sky biscuits road trips. Richard will be taking a road trip May 8 – 15 along the highline and June 18 - 30 he will travel along the Bitterroots and swing down through Baker. He wants to maximize each visit by visiting Montana leaders and Legislators and Tribal Council members.

APPROVAL OF RUSSELL ART LOAN TO THE DENVER ART MUSEUM

Richard asked Bill Mercer to present this request. Bill reported the Denver Center for Western Art is developing a traveling exhibition that will be a major retrospective of the artist Charles Russell. The focus is on oils and bronze sculpture. It will open at the Denver Art Museum and travel to the Gilcrease Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma and finally to the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. Four of MHS paintings will be in this expedition. The works included are: *When Horses Talk War There is Small Chance for Peace*, *Caught in the Act*, *Indian Hunters Return* and *When the Land Belonged to God*. In conjunction with this particular exhibition there will be a catalog and Kirby Lambert will be one of the contributing authors to that particular catalog. Bill stated that the organizers of the exhibition are allowing MHS the opportunity to have a smaller version of the exhibition here.

Jim Utterback moved approval of the Russell Art Loan to the Denver Art Museum. Tom Nygard seconded the motion. He said there has been very little opposition to this loan and this is a very exciting move. Sharon Lincoln noted that Richard discussed this loan with the Mackay family and MHS has their total blessing. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Richard asked Board members to think about who should travel to openings with the Art in 2009.

APPROVAL OF ARTIFACTS FOR THE MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM LOAN

Bill Mercer explained that the Molly Brown House is a small house museum in Denver, Colorado. During the Democratic National Convention in Denver this summer a small display will be presented and the museum have asked MHS for a loan of Jeanette Rankin's left shoe as well as a campaign button. All requirements are met for loans and proper care of the objects. Bill stated he believes this loan is appropriate for MHS.

Steve Lozar moved approval of the Jeanette Rankin shoe and campaign button loan for The Molly Brown House Museum. Katherine Lee seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE LIVINGSTON DEPOT CENTER MCGEE EXPEDITION

Bill Mercer said the Livingston Depot Center will be exhibiting the MHS created traveling exhibit *On Track: The Railroad Photographs of Warren McGee*, and is requesting the loan of the following: 1) Kodak six-20 camera (2007.03.01); 2) 4 x 5 Graflex camera (2007.03.03) and; 3) Zeiss-Ikon 35 mm camera (2007.03.02) to augment the exhibit.

Jim Utterback moved approval of the motion. Jim Murry seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Richard announced he has been working with Susan Near on the five year strategic plan. They are working on a simple five year draft plan that the Board can visit every meeting. Goals and objectives at program levels need to be incorporated into the plan.

OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION PROGRAM REPORT

Kirby Lambert gave an update on the textbook announcing that it has gone to the printers. He announced that more than 10,000 requests have been received for books, some as far away as West Africa. The grant does state textbooks can only go to Montana schools. June 25th – 27th a teachers institute will be held at MHS for heritage education. An activity book for small children which is geared towards Montana history is in the works. The research was completed but MHS lacked the artistic skills. An intern came forward this spring from the art institute and has finished the drawings. The book should be out this summer. The history conference titled, “Damned if we Do” will be held October 16th – 18th in Glasgow and Fort Peck. Kirby reminded the Board that he still needs committee members. Sharon Lincoln commented that the list of committees will be reviewed in the middle of July with some changes proposed due to a few new Board members. The Board thanked Kirby for the emails each week highlighting the weekly happenings of the Society. Discussion took place regarding the price of textbook. Molly said the price per textbook is \$49.95. Kirby announced the book will be featured at the Montana Festival of Books in Missoula and the Helena Festival of Books.

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER REPORT

Molly Holz announced the spring issue of the magazine is out. She said the magazine’s distributor reported news stand sales are up 41% of the year previous. Our long time free lance graphic designer Diane Hall has joined the MHS staff. Molly recently returned from the Western organization of the American Historian meeting in New York City. The fall meeting will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is at this meeting that the council will vote on whether to continue the magazine’s contract with the WHA for another four or five years. She has been

working with the president/director this summer working out the terms of the contract and lobbying council members. Our current contract goes through winter, 2009. Molly announced there is a new book out titled *The History of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana, 1800 – 2000*, co-published with the Fort Peck tribes. It is the official history written by the tribes and funded by the 2005 Legislature. She presented the book stating it is \$39.95. Molly reported that a long awaited quilt book is also in the works. It is going to be a beautiful book. Molly also reported the 2009 calendar has been started. It will highlight Montana sports. The book on Montana Historical Highway Markers will soon be out. It's a revision of an old book but it has 100 new entries with all new illustrations and maps. The Highway Department has paid for the costs for this new book. George Horse Capture commented that it is his desire to see the new book on historic highway markers show sensitivity and historical accuracy depicted on the markers. Molly responded that the markers fall under the jurisdiction of the Highway Department and that the Department has taken down a number of old markers over the years. The book is very clear in that the markers are historical and written in the 30's and 40's. The book looks at the artwork of Shorty Shope. Molly commented that hopefully all the past offensive markers have been taken down and it is very clear from the book that the information is coming from the Highway Department and not the Historical Society. Kent Kleinkopf asked Molly if the Historical Society had been asked to play a role in taking the offending signs down. Molly responded that the Historical Society has not been asked to help in this project. Kirby Lambert noted that to the best of his knowledge all offensive signs have been taken down by the Highway Department. Richard Sims stated that he will meet with Molly and discuss this issue and check with the Highway Department to see if there is a problem with offensive signage on highway markers. Katherine Lee responded that this issue may make an interesting magazine article to make sure all points are covered. Sharon commented that this idea could be part of Richard's discussion with Molly.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM (SHPO)

Mark Baumler reported that since the quarterly report went out he has received word from Washington D.C. that the third grant from the National Park Service, Preserve America Program has been approved in the amount of \$149,979.00. This brings us to a total of \$400,000 in federal grant money over the past two and a half years. This new grant is in the research and documentation category of the Preserve America grants. The bulk of it will be re-granted out to certified Montana Preserve America communities based on applications from those communities as to how they would like to use this money. The primary use in this case will be to help them survey and document the historic resources in their town. Funds will have to be matched. Mark stated there will be newspaper press on this award next week. Funds will also be used to organize a Tribal Heritage Resource Summit for Montana's Indian Tribes. The purpose of the summit will be to talk about identifying potential areas of survey, specific undocumented landscapes and other traditional cultural resources important to the preservation of Montana's Native American history. He noted this summit is only the planning stage and they have two years to spend the funds.

RESEARCH CENTER REPORT

Molly spoke to the Board regarding the current status of and possible changes to the Thomas Teakle Trust. She reported on the restrictions of the endowment noting that it was to be spent on the “growth and expansion” of the original collection on the cattle and range industry in Montana. Only the interest from the endowment can be expended. Given the fact that the Society has had this money for almost 40 years, we have a very comprehensive collection on this topic. The breadth and depth of our current collection means that staff has difficulty locating materials to purchase that both fit within the scope of the topic and that are items we do not already have in the collections. Because there is unspent interest each year Molly proposed that the Board approve a change to the historic use of the revenue earned from the trust. She outlined three priorities (as outlined in the memo presented in her report packet) for expending the future interest from the trust noting the change would continue to promote the study of the western cattle and range industry.

Jim Utterback moved approval of the change to the historic use of the revenue earned from the Thomas Teakle Trust. Tom Nygard seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and motion carried unanimously.

Molly presented a handout on the Montana County History Initiative. During the next 10 to 15 years about 75% of the counties in the state will be celebrating their centennials. A program is being developed to show counties what resources we have and what we can do for them as they celebrate their centennials. Money from the bed tax funds has been put towards the program. This May, four people are being invited from each of the travel regions of the state to attend a conference here at MHS. Attendees will participate in two full days of learning about researching and writing county history, and what resources the Historical Society has to offer to help them as they create centennial projects. MHS is working with the Census Economic and Information Center which is the Department of Commerce, the State Library, the Montana Association of Counties and several other groups. After the first workshop in May, we anticipate additional funds for FY’09 and will ask each of the tourism regions to host their own conference. As part of this initial meeting, we will be giving a digital recorder to each participant to take back to their local public library so that people in their county can check out the recorders and conduct oral history projects on their own, with the understanding that those oral histories will come back here. Local librarians can help them catalog their oral histories and have them available in there local area as well as here in Helena. We will also be sending back with each person a nice size library of “how to” books. Molly stated that Board members are encouraged to come to the May conference and would really encourage members to participate in the regional conferences. Richard commented that he salutes Rich Aarstad and Jeff Malcomson “the County boys” that did the creative thinking that he is pleased to see Society wide. MHS will be having an impact in 56 counties in this state where it matters to folks the most, in their local celebrations and their local history.

Molly reported that the Research Center has awarded its annual James H. Bradley research fellowships again and it is pleased to announce that two were presented. One award went to Roger Henderson who is a professor at the Pennsylvania State University doing research on the Blackfeet and the second is Amy McKinny who is a graduate student and Ph. D. candidate at the University of Calgary and a former student of Mary Murphy at MSU. They will be here this summer to do their research.

MUSEUM REPORT

Bill Mercer announced how happy he is to be here with the MHS staff in his new position. He said he has been information gathering for the last six weeks or so. He is getting a foundation as to how things work. He noted that he may not have a lot of substance to report today but certainly his eyes and ears are open to ideas and advice. One of the main projects underway at this time is accelerating the collections management tasks. 2.8 collection positions were hired at the end of last year. Attack is underway on the backlog of items in the storage areas that have not been cataloged and already significant headway is being reported. Temporary or special expositions are being planned and work is underway to maximize the expositions. Work is currently underway at OGM in several areas. One area of work is the renovation of the basement at the Original Governor's Mansion. An ADA accessible restroom is being constructed. Currently there are no public restroom facilities at the site. The board room in the basement will be renovated and cleaned up. All appropriate security measures will be installed. Another project being planned is in the carriage house. The carriages will be removed and the space used for interpretive programming and other public presentations. The secret garden tour will occur on June 22nd. Bill is now the primary contact person for the Historical Society. Bill announced he has been invited by the American Association of Museums to do a collections management assessment of the Southeast Alaskan Indian Cultural Center in Alaska. Richard asked Bill if possibly a carriage will remain in the carriage house. Bill responded that anything is possible. The current carriage house is not equipped with temperature/humidity controls so the space is being reviewed to see what will best fit into this space.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Susan Near reported on the Western Rendezvous of Art stating that this event is the largest fund raising event for MHS. For the last 10 years MHS has been cosponsoring this event with the Helena Civic Center, however, this will be the last year that the Civic Center will participate. MHS intent is to go on with the Western Rendezvous of Art with the North West Rendezvous of Artists who are those artists that participate in the sale. Susan presented to each Board member a postcard which is used in advertising the event, a draft schedule, a poster of Jim Daly's winning painting and fund raising information. She emphasized that it is the sponsors that help make it possible to raise the money that benefits MHS. Susan encouraged the Board's help and their attendance at the event. There will be a large mailing going out at the end of May and she asked for additional names of folks the Board thinks might like to be a part of this event.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Nominations for Officers and Executive Committee

Sharon noted past practice has been that Board officers serve two year terms and all of the officers have now served those two years. Lee Rostad will now step down from the Executive Committee as past president. Tom Foor has not reapplied for his Board position. We need to nominate and elect two individuals for the Executive Committee. Sharon suggested the nominations be broke into two parts and the Board nominate two new members for the Executive Committee.

Shirley Groff reported the nominating committee met and nominations are as follows: Tom Nygard for the Executive Committee and Steve Lozar as Secretary. Sharon asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Lee Rostad nominated Crystal Shors. Crystal Shors declined the nomination. Nominations were closed.

Sharon Lincoln called for a vote of all in favor of the nomination of Tom Nygard for the Executive Committee and Steve Lozar for Secretary. All voted in favor of the nominations and the motion carried unanimously.

Sharon asked for nominations of President and Vice President. Katherine Lee nominated Jim Murry as president and Jim Utterback as vice president. Sharon asked if there were any nominations from the floor. None being made the nominations were closed.

Sharon Lincoln called for a vote of all in favor of the nominations of Jim Murry for President and Jim Utterback as Vice President. All voted in favor of the nominations and the motion carried unanimously.

Board Awards Review, Education and Trustees

Shirley Groff discussed the award review process and her feeling that the award isn't prestigious enough. She noted that in discussions with Richard it was suggested the award should be titled the Heritage Keeper Award and possibly separated from the annual History Conference. A further suggestion was it could be given at one of the Board of Trustee meetings held around the state annually. Shirley stated the award process would be kept the same this year and that it would be changed the following year. There were no nominations for an Educator's Award or a Trustee's Award this year, however, last year the Board tentatively discussed giving this year's Trustee Award to Dr. Davis from Jefferson City. Shirley said it was the recommendation of the committee to give the award to Dr. Davis. She is looking for nominations from MHS and suggests staff provide names. Jim Utterback responded that the award should not be given just for the sake of giving it and recommends letting it sit for a year. Sharon noted the award is presented at the History Conference so nominations would have to be presented at the July Board meeting. Richard commented that his thoughts first on the Educator's Award would be that it be placed with the new Outreach and Interpretation Manager, Kirby Lambert. He said there is a new network in place working with teachers throughout the state. There is also the teacher's

institute coming up and perhaps some of the leadership from that assembly could work with Kirby and talk about the nature of this award and the restructuring of this award. Kirby could bring the information back to the Board. Richard further discussed the Trustee's Award and the transitioning of it into a Heritage Keeper Award. He commented that it moves the award away from the ivory tower and gets it out there on the ground with Montanans who are keeping heritage in their own way in their own towns. Katherine Lee suggested the award be tied into MHS membership or that awardees be nominated by a society member. Jim Murry asked Richard if the award should be presented this year. Richard suggested the Board agree today to redefine the award or by doing so at the July meeting. Shirley suggested keeping the process the way it is this year and revamping the process next year. George Horse Capture stated he likes the idea of the Heritage Keeper Award and prefers it be put into place as quickly as possible. Jim Murry suggested both awards be given this year. Richard offered to clarify the name of the award by suggesting it be called the Trustees Heritage Keeper(s) Award.

Shirley moved to present three awards this year at the upcoming History Conference and to award the Trustee's Award to Dr. Davis this year stating the Trustee's Award would be phased out next year. Jim Murry seconded the motion. George Horse Capture asked for a break down of the three awards. Sharon named the three proposed awards this year as the Heritage Keeper(s) Award, Trustee Award and the Educator's Award which is for this year only and next year the Trustee Award would be revamped and named the Heritage Keeper(s) Award. Richard said the Heritage Keepers Award should be portable. George Horse Capture suggested that a monetary amount be attached to the award. Sharon commented she preferred voting on the motion as proposed by Shirley and then discuss a monetary value. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Sharon announced the next Board meeting (July 17-18) would be held in Lewistown. Discussion took place on Board meetings being held in different Montana cities and towns. Richard stated the Board serves the State of Montana. Getting together with community leaders for supper and talks makes an impact. When the Board meets it is news in small towns. Jim Murry said he likes the idea of having an outreach effort which is critical for growth and he likes visiting small towns in Montana. Staff has many reasons to travel the state and their work can be combined during the Board meetings. Chrystal Wong Shors commented that this is an opportunity to get input from the smaller towns and we can invite people to participate and give us their thoughts and needs.

Jim Murry moved to have the Board travel to Lewistown for the July Board meeting. Shirley Groff seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Steve Lozar wanted to honor Bill Holt on this date since this was Bill's last meeting. Steve announced that Bill meant a lot to him as a Board member and as a fellow Montanan and as a person who truly embraces and loved the duty of all the Montana Historical Society does. In tribal tradition Steve offered a blessing for Bill and his family. Sharon noted all the fine work that Tom Foor has done with his generosity and reported he has served four terms. The Board wished him and his family well also.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.